

# Tidy Farmsteads

Add to the Joys of Home Life, to the  
Beauty of One's Community,  
and to Farm Values

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## **TO IMPROVE THE HOME IS TO ENRICH THE LIFE**

It pays to keep the farmstead looking well. It pays, not only because it adds to farm values, but because it adds to one's sense of well-being, and a sense of well-being increases one's efficiency. A tidy farmstead means better management, more effective labor, and greater profits.

And it does not take much to keep a farmstead neat and in order. A little labor, judiciously distributed, and a small investment now and then are all that are needed nowadays. If funds for such investments are not immediately at hand, they may be obtained through the Federal Housing Act.

The first thing necessary is to check-up on your needs. The following ten points should be of help to one who wishes to improve his home surroundings and thereby enrich the lives of himself and family.

### **NO-COST IMPROVEMENTS**

#### **Have everything in its place.**

Equipment scattered about a farmstead looks bad. It speaks of carelessness on the part of the farmer and his family. All that is needed to correct this detriment to tidiness is to have a place for everything, and then to see to it that everything is put in its place. A little time and effort are all that are involved, and they will pay dividends in looks and in actual savings of time and money.

#### **Dispose of junk and rubbish.**

Accumulations of junk and rubbish also look bad. Clean them up. Remove broken-down or dead trees, buildings that are falling down, discarded machinery, and accumulations of trash. This, too, will pay.

#### **Keep buildings clean.**

A clean building looks better than a dirty one.

You can actually increase the value of a building by removing cobwebs, dust, and dirt. To do so is to improve appearances and sanitation, and, also, to remove an extra fire hazard.

### **Move poorly placed buildings.**

Use care in placing movable buildings. A little care in this will add much to the appearance of a farmstead. It should not be necessary to sacrifice convenience in making such shifts. A well-arranged farmstead lightens labor and increases its efficiency.

## **LOW-COST IMPROVEMENTS**

### **Provide necessary equipment.**

Many farm structures are not properly equipped. Poultry houses, for example, may need nests, water stands, feed hoppers, and permanent roosts. It is important that such equipment should be provided and so constructed and installed as to be removable when the building is to be whitewashed. Barns and hog-houses may also need added equipment, such as drinking cups and feed trucks. Good equipment saves time and labor.

### **Do not neglect painting.**

Painting often increases building values more than any other equal investment. It is wise not to neglect this, because, when deterioration of lumber begins, the lumber can not be restored and repainting can not be done easily. Good paint, carefully applied every five years keeps farm buildings in fine condition. If the owner can do the work himself, very little cash outlay is required.

### **Keep up the repairs.**

Repairs need to be kept up. Neglected property runs down rapidly. New shingles sometimes double the life of a building. Windows and doors, if neglected, may before long prove a total loss, whereas, if they are puttied and repaired, they may be

made to last many years. A neglected chimney may cause a fire, resulting in the loss of the whole house and its contents. It is easier and better to keep a house in repair than it is to rebuild—practically—a badly run-down house.

## **PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS**

### **Remodeling is often a good investment.**

The remodeling of a house often adds greatly to the comfort and convenience of its occupants. Besides, buildings, like automobiles, tend to become out-of-date. So, remodeling may not only provide for comfort and convenience but bring a house into modern shape and make it a thing of pride to the owner. Remodeling can often be done at a moderate expense. An unused porch may be made to give place to a modern entrance. New trim and mill-work add greatly to appearance. A new outside wall-covering can change the whole appearance of a building, and add very substantial values.

### **Enlargements can increase usefulness.**

By careful planning, small buildings may frequently be made larger and more useful. Owners frequently have found that the addition of a room has provided enough space to add greatly to the convenience of the home. Some buildings can be enlarged easily simply by lengthening.

### **Rebuilding is sometimes necessary.**

When a building—house, barn, or other structure—just does not “fill the bill,” and can not be remodeled, the thing to do is to rebuild; salvage the material and then build from the ground up. Plans to aid in such ventures may be obtained at a nominal cost from the Division of Agricultural Engineering, University Farm, St. Paul.

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